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ACCOUNT

OF THE

Condemnation, Behaviour, Execution, and Laſt dying Words

OF

Captain Francis Winter,

WHo was Condemned at the *Seſſions-Houſe* in the *Old-Baily*, on *Saturday* the 29*th*. of *April*, For the Murther of one *John Chandler*, in *White Fryers* in *London*, &c. and Executed for the ſame at *White-Fryars-Gate* in *Fleetſtreet*, on *Wedneſday* the 17*th*. of *May*, 1693.

19. May. 1693.

SEveral Reports, of this Nature, have been oftentimes Manifeſted in Print; many, of which, have ſeemed to look ſomewhat obſcure, till it hath been more particularly diſſected, and laid open, in all its Agravating Circumſtances. And indeed, till that be done, there are a ſort of Men in the World, who are apt to aſperſe the Superior Powers, as if they were too Severe in the Execution of Juſtice; but, when their Eyes are enlightned by the due Weight of Reaſon, then perhaps they will be of another mind, unleſs they are Prejudiced beyond the bounds of Natural Reaſon, and Common Sence, therefore, it will not be inconvenient to give the *Reader* a Brief Account (by the way) of the *Matter of Fact*, in Relation to this Unfortunate Gentleman, *&c.*

Some Perſons (it is very likely) have not forgotten, that about the 4*th*. of *July* laſt, was Twelve Month, there was a Mutinous, or Riotous Aſſembly Raiſed, and got together in *White Fryars*, in *London*, in oppoſition to the Gentlemen of the *Inner Temple*, who ſtopt up a Paſſage that led out of the ſaid *Fryars* into the Temple Walks, the Gentlemen finding the ſaid Paſſage to be very incommodious to them, upon the hot Reſiſtance of the *White Fryars* men, there was likely to be great Miſchief done, to prevent, appeaſe, and qualifie which, the then preſent Sheriffs of *London*, (being ſent for) came with their Officers and Attendants, entered in at the *Fryars* Gate, endeavouring to make open *Proclamation*, that all Perſons ſhould Ceaſe, and go Home in Peace to their Reſpective Abodes: But this was not Regarded by the Mutineers, for they were the more Incenſed, and came with great Fury againſt the High Sheriffs, this Gentleman being at the Head of about *Fourſcore* of them, as their Captain and Leader, with a Blunderbuſs in his hand, which he was ſeen to Fire off ſeveral times, bidding defiance to the Sheriffs; and all thoſe who were their Aſſiſtance, crying *One and all, they would kill them, rather than any Man ſhould be taken out from them, by way of an Arreſt*, but that was lookt upon to be but a falſe Suggeſtion, and a Cunning Plea of their own Forging, they having no Regard to Authority, for they had placed ſeveral Casks on both ſides of the Street, on purpoſe to Impede the Paſſage of the Sheriffs, and ſome of them lay ſecretly behind them, as it were on purpoſe, to lye in Wait to take an Advantage, *&c.* Firing ſeveral times againſt the Sheriffs and their Men, the Captain being at the Head of them, as aforeſaid. And *Chandler*, the poor Man, who was killed, being on the Sheriffs ſide, had the misfortune to be ſhot in the Calf of his Leg, with a Leaden Bullet, which wound killed him in two or three Days, he ſolemnly proteſting upon his Death-Bed, that he knew Captain *Winter* very well, and that he was the Man that Shot him, for which Fact the Captain, for ſome conſiderable time, Abſconded, but was lately Apprehended, and

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Committed to *Newgate* for the ſame, and was this laſt Seſſions Tryed for it, and found Guilty of Murther, and, on the 29*th*. of *April* he was Condemned, in Order to be Executed with the other Criminals, who ſuffer'd at *Tyburn*, the 8*th*. Inſtant. But, by Vertue of Her Majeſty's Gracious Reprieve, he was Reſpited until this day, *&c.* As for his Birth, he was Born at *Truro* in *Cornwall*, then ſent Apprentice to a Captain of a Ship, after this he was made a Captain of a Merchant Man to the *Weſt Indias* himſelf, after that he Commanded a Ship in the laſt *Dutch* Wars, where (to ſay the Truth) he behaved himſelf with a great deal of Candor and Courage, afterwards he fell into decay, and had Contracted ſome Debts in the World, which occaſioned him to fly for Refuge into *White Fryers*, where he had the Unhappineſs to be Engaged in ſuch an unworthy *Deſign*, and Violent *Attempt*, as aforeſaid.

He had not much to offer in his Defence at his Tryal, only in the General, that altho' he was there amongſt the Multitude, yet there were others that Shot, and therefore the Man might fall by another hand as well as his, or to that Effect, *&c.* After Condemnation he Behav'd himſelf in a Chriſtian like manner, being much Concerned for his Souls Everlaſting Welfare, deſiring the Advice, Good Counſel, and Prayers, of all thoſe Worthy Divines that came near him, acknowledging the Juſtice of God, in bringing him to Undergo ſo Severe a Puniſhment, for that he had been guilty of ſeveral Irregularities in the Courſe of his Life, and had not walked up to the ſtrict Rules of the Chriſtian Religion as he ought to have done, which he now Lamented, and was exceedingly troubled for, therefore he hoped that God would forgive him, being willing to ſubmit to the Righteous Judgement of God Almighty. He gave himſelf to Reading, Prayer, Hearing God's Word, and to all other Exerciſes of Religion, being willing to adhear to all Seaſonable Advice, that might any ways advance his mind, and ſet his thoughts on Heavenly Things, Relying only upon the Merits of Chriſt, for his future Happineſs; he carryed himſelf humbly, during his Impriſonment, both before and after Conviction, though Naturally of a ſtout, hardy, and undaunted ſpirit, was no ways affrighted at the near approaches of Death, giving God the Praiſe for ſuch a Reſpite of Time, in Order to prepare his ſoul for another World.

On *Wedneſday* morning, the 17*th*. Inſtant as aboveſaid, (by Vertue of a Freſh Warrant from her Majeſty) he was put into a Coach at *Newgate* Stairs, and from thence Conveyed down *Old Baily*, and over *Fleet-Bridge*, to the *Fryars* Gate, in the way to which place, there were ſeveral Thouſands of Spectators, who thronged to ſee him, when the Cart was ſettled under the Gibbet, and he put into it, (which was Erected there on purpoſe) he ſtood up, and ſpake as follows: *I have no Publick Declaration to make here, my Thoughts being wholly taken up in the Concerns of my Eternal Welfare, for that is the Work that I am come here to do: Therefore I deſire that I may not be interrupted.* Then the Miniſter Prayed with him, and for him, and Recommended him to the Mercy of God, *&c.*

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After this, he Pray'd in theſe Words.

O *Moſt Great and Glorious Lord God, do thou look down in Mercy upon me, a Poor Miſerable Sinner, and ſhew thy bleſſed Face to me, now in this Hour of my Extremity, for what am I without thee, therefore O Lord! I beſeech thee to Pardon my Sins, and Waſh my Soul clean in the Blood of* CHRIST JESUS, *and deliver me O Lord from the guilt and defilement of Sin; Holy Father do thou Receive me into Mercy, for into thy Hands I Commend my Spirit: O Lord let it be Precious in thy Sight, and let it live with thee in Everlaſting Glory: Now I come, ſweet* JESUS *now I am coming to thee; Dear* JESUS *do thou plead my Cauſe with the Great* GOD *of Heaven and Earth, and ſend down thy Bleſſed Spirit to Aſſiſt and Help me in this Great Work I am now about; I am a Poor Worthleſs Creature, full of Sin and Miſery; yet do thou Lord* JESUS *take pitty upon my Precious Soul: O Lord* JESUS *come quickly, for I am now coming to thee, therefore I Humbly beg thee O* GOD *to Receive my poor Soul into the Arms of thy Everlaſting loving Kindneſs, Lord! Into thy Hands I Commend my Spirit, for thou haſt Redeemed it O* LORD GOD *of Truth* Amen.

Then the Cart Drew away, and afterwards he was Carryed into White-Fryars, to be Inter'd in the Sepulchre with his Brethren, &c.

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